

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

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FM AMEMBASSY NICOSIA
TO SECSTATE WASH DC 6181
INFO USUN NEW YORK 6079
USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 NICOSIA 1933

GENEVA FOR ASST SEC MAYNES

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PORG, CY, UN

SUBJECT: MAYNES UNFICYP DISCUSSION

SUMMARY: ASSISTANT SECRETARY MAYNES AND EMBOFFS MET WITH SENIOR UNFICYP OFFICIALS JULY 22 FOR A THOROUGH REVIEW OF UNFICYP OPERATIONS AND FINANCING. BASIC CONCLUSIONS DERIVED FROM DISCUSSIONS ARE THAT UNFICYP IS DOING AN EFFECTIVE JOB IN TERMS OF ITS DEFINED MISSION WITH THE RESOURCES AVAILABLE TO IT AND THAT UNFICYP IS COST CONSCIOUS, AWARE OF ITS BUDGETARY PROBLEMS AND IN A LIMITED WAY INITIATING NEW ECONOMIES. IT IS CLEAR FORCE HAS EVOLVED PROCEDURES TO HANDLE IT PEACEKEEPING RESPONSIBILITIES. HOWEVER, ALTHOUGH ITS SENIOR OFFICIALS ARE AWARE THAT CONDITIONS ARE CHANGING AND CAN ALTER ITS MISSION, UNFICYP APPEARS RELUCTANT TO INITIATE SIGNIFICANT CHANGES IN OPERATIONAL PROCEDURES OR MISSION DEFINITION. SENIOR POLITICAL OFFICERS NOTE THAT FORCE PROBABLY WILL BE REDUCED BY ALMOST 10 PERCENT IN OCTOBER WITH WITHDRAWAL OF FINNISH CONTINGENT AND IMPLIED THAT WITH REALIGNMENTS FORCE COULD CONTINUE TO FULFILL CURRENT MISSION. OFFICIALS NOTED U.S. CONTRIBUTION TO UNFICYP IS VITAL, BUT U.S. CONFIDENTIAL

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SHARE OF OVERALL FINANCING IS CONSIDERABLY BELOW OUR 47 PERCENT SHARE OF CONTRIBUTIONS WHEN HIDDEN AND ABSORBED COSTS OF FORCE CONTRIBUTING COUNTRIES AND HOST GOVERNMENT ARE COUNTED. END SUMMARY

1. UNFICYP OFFICIALS ARGUED THAT ITS PEACEKEEPING PROCEDURES, NEED FOR A LARGE NUMBER OF FIXED OBSERVATION

POINTS, ESCORT AND PROTECTION DUTIES ARE A RESULT OF THE UNIQUE NATURE OF THE CEASEFIRE LINES WHICH ARE NOT OFFICIALLY RECOGNIZED BY EITHER SIDE. THE TWO SIDES HAVE CONFLICTING VIEWPOINTS AS TO THE NATURE OF THE AREA BETWEEN THE LINES: THE TURKS ARGUE THAT EITHER THE AREA IS A NO-MAN'S LAND IN WHICH ONLY U.N. FORCES SHOULD BE PRESENT OR THAT THE FERTILE AREAS WITHIN THE ZONE SHOULD BE APPORTIONED BETWEEN GREEKS AND TURKS BY NEGOTIATION; THE GREEKS MAINTAIN THAT THEY POSSESS, AND SHOULD BE ABLE TO UTILIZE, ALL LAND UP TO THE TURKISH CEASEFIRE LINE. FOR THE ABOVE REASON AND BECAUSE OF CONSEQUENT POLITICAL IMPLICATIONS UNFICYP OFFICIALS ARE RELUCTANT TO CONSIDER RESTRUCTURING EVEN IN AREA WITH FAIRLY ESTABLISHED PATTERNS OF LAND USE.

2. UNFICYP HAS INITIATED SOME COST CUTTING PROCEDURES: WITHIN LAST YEAR IT HAS CUT BACK ON ITS VEHICLE FLEET TEN PERCENT AND REDUCED THE SIZE OF CIVILIAN STAFF. INCREASED USE OF U.K. LOGISTIC SUPPORT FROM THE SOVERIGN BASE AREAS (SBA'S) HAS ALSO REDUCED U.N. EXPENDITURES.

3. QUERIED ABOUT CHANGES THAT WOULD BE INSTITUTED IF A ZERO BASE BUDGETING APPROACH WERE IMPLEMENTED, ACTING FORCE COMMANDER TILLOTSON'S RESPONSES PROVIDED INTERESTING INSIGHT INTO UNFICYP ATTITUDES: ADDITIONAL FUNDS COULD BE USED FOR REDUCTION OF DEFICIT; OR ASSUMING DEFICIT NOT A QUESTION, LIMITED TROOP INCREASES IN ORDER TO ALLOW

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WITHDRAWAL OF ELEMENTS FOR "RECYCLING AND RETRAINING," IMPROVED LIVING CONDITIONS FOR UNITS AROUND FAMAGUSTA AND IN REMOTE AREAS, IMPROVEMENT IN PATROL TRACK TO REDUCE WEAR AND TEAR ON VEHICLES AND AN EXTENSION IN LIAISON SUPPORT FACILITIES. IN SHORT, NO NEW MISSIONS BUT BETTER LIVING CONDITIONS AND INTENSIVE EFFORTS TO CARRY OUT THE SAME MISSION MORE EFFECTIVELY. A BUDGET CUTBACK COULD BE HANDLED BY REDUCTING THE NUMBER OF COUNTRY CONTINGENTS AND THUS ECONOMIZING ON COSTS OF MAINTAINING SIX SEPARATE HALF-BATTALION HEADQUARTERS OR BY COMPLETE WITHDRAWAL FROM ONE OR MORE OF THE SECTORS. HOWEVER, TILLOTSON SAID THAT BOTH THESE ALTERNATIVES WERE POLITICALLY UNACCEPTABLE.

(COMMENT: WE KNOW TILLOTSON IS AWARE OF PENDING FINNISH CONTINGENT WITHDRAWAL BUT HIS ISSUE IS VERY SENSITIVE WITHIN UNFICYP. HIS RELUCTANCE TO ACKNOWLEDGE THIS IN MAYNES BRIEFING PROBABLY REFLECTS FACT THAT OTHER UNFICYP OFFICERS WERE PRESENT.) IN SUM, UNFICYP THINKING IS IN TERMS OF MORE OF THE SAME, BUT BETTER, IN THE EVENT OF INCREASED ALLOCATIONS AND OF POLITICALLY UNACCEPTABLE ALTERNATIVES IN THE FACE OF MAJOR BUDGET CUTS.

4. TILLOTSON AND SENIOR POLITICAL ADVISOR GORGE WERE

RECEPTIVE TO IDEA OF REDUCING ROTATIONS COSTS BY INCREASED
TOUR OF DUTY FROM SIX MONTHS TO A YEAR. GORGE STATED UNFICYP
WILL MAKE RECOMMENDATION TO U.N. TO SEE IF COUNTRY PARTI-
CIPATION AGREEMENTS COULD BE ALTERED TO PROVIDE FOR ONE
YEAR TOURS OF DUTY ALTHOUGH UNFICYP MANDATE IS CURRENTLY
RENEWED FOR SIX MONTHS PERIODS.

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 NICOSIA 1933

GENEVA FOR ASST SEC MAYNES

5. UNFICYP OFFICIALS NOTED THAT CONCENTRATION ON THE 47 PER-
CENT SHARE OF U.S. CASH CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE UNFICYP
BUDGET OBSCURES FACT THAT U.S. SHARE OF OVERALL COSTS IS
CONSIDERABLY LOWER. THE UNCHARGED U.K. PROVISION OF LOGISTIC
COSTS UP TO DOLLARS 1.7 MILLION ANNUALLY, THE SAVINGS TO
UNFICYP REALIZED FROM USE OF SBA FACILITIES, THE VALUE OF
GOC SUPPLIED SERVICES AND ACCOMMODATIONS, AND TROOP SALARIES
AND INCREASED COSTS FOR OVERSEAS POSTING WHICH FOR MOST
PART ARE ABSORBED BY FORCE CONTRIBUTING COUNTRIES ARE SOME
OF THE HIDDEN ELEMENTS OF THE UNFICYP FINANCIAL SITUATION.

6. FOLLOWING OTHER BRIEFINGS MAYNES MET SEPARATELY WITH DE
CUELLAR AND GORGE. THEY DISCUSSED FINNISH WITHDRAWAL
AND ARE COMMITTED TO IT BUT THEY DO NOT WANT MORE OPEN
DISCUSSION ABOUT IT UNTIL FALL. THEY IMPLIED THAT OPERATIONS
UNDER CURRENT MISSION DEFINITION WILL NOT BE
SIGNIFICANTLY DEGRADED BY WITHDRAWAL.

7. COMMENT: UNFICYP IS UNDENIABLY DOING A GOOD JOB.
WITHDRAWAL OF FINNISH CONTINGENT WILL LEAD TO A FURTHER

STRETCHING OF ITS RESOURCES BUT SHOULD RESULT IN SUBSTANTIAL
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FINANCIAL SAVINGS. EVEN SO, IT APPEARS THAT FUNDS WOULD
HAVE TO BE SIGNIFICANTLY REDUCED BEFORE UNFICYP WOULD CONSIDER
BASIC RETHINKING OF ITS MISSION DEFINITION, REQUIREMENTS AND
OPERATIONS.
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